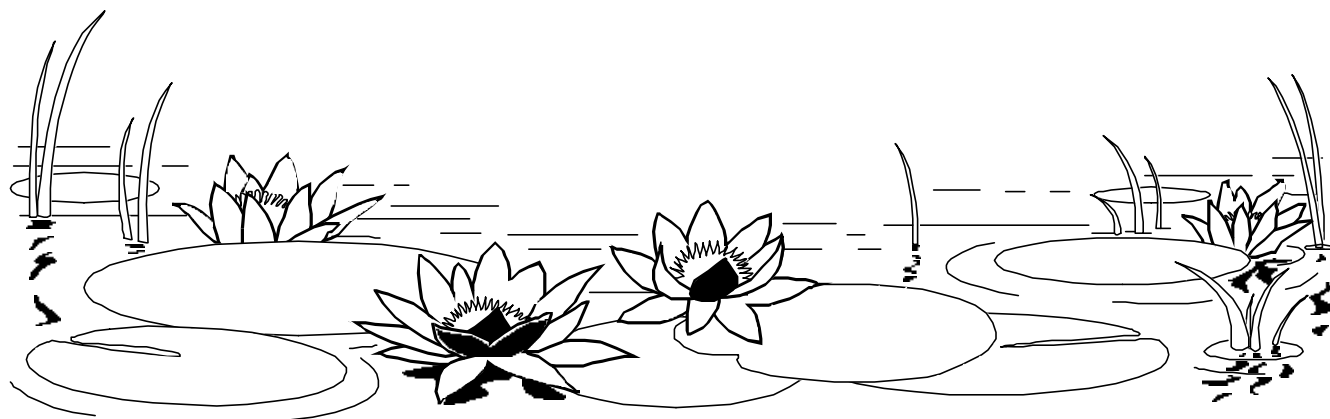


# *INTRODUCTION*



## *PURPOSE*

Pursuant to U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidance issued in May 1996 and subsequently during 1998, Virginia has updated its nonpoint source (NPS) pollution management program. This program update was developed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in cooperation with other state, federal, regional and local agencies and organizations in compliance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act of 1987.

The management program identifies statewide management programs designed to quantify, control and limit the effects of nonpoint source pollution on the attainment of water quality standards and goals as identified by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Federal Clean Water Act of 1987. The attainment of beneficial uses as measured by water quality standards compliance is the overriding purpose of control programs identified herein for nonpoint sources of pollution. The program also

## *REPORT STRUCTURE*

identifies reportable milestones for a five-year program through which progress towards the achievement of identified goals can be reported and monitored.

The document is divided into chapters representing eight major source categories of nonpoint source pollution. For each source category a separate chapter in the management program identifies the statewide management plan goals and programs to control nonpoint source pollution from that particular source. An additional chapter is also included to address the coastal nonpoint source pollution control program. Responsible agencies and management strategies to be utilized for source control as well as reportable milestones to monitor progress are identified.

## *DEFINITION OF NONPOINT*

# *SOURCE POLLUTION*

Many definitions of nonpoint source pollution can be found in technical and general publications. For the purpose of this management program and for the purpose of implementing the nonpoint source provisions in the Clean Water Act, nonpoint source pollution is defined in EPA guidance as follows:

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) pollution is caused by diffuse sources that are not regulated as point sources and normally is associated with agricultural, silvicultural and urban runoff, runoff from construction activities, and other sources. Such pollution results in the human-made or human-induced alteration of the chemical, physical, biological, and radiological integrity of water. In practical terms, nonpoint source pollution does not result from a discharge at a specific, single location (such as a single pipe) but generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, or percolation. It must be kept in mind that this definition is necessarily general; legal and regulatory decisions have sometimes resulted in certain sources being assigned to either the point or nonpoint source categories because of considerations other than their manner of discharge.

## *OVERALL NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY*

DCR has overall statewide responsibility for implementing the management program and

coordinating Section 319 NPS programs with the cooperation of the individual agencies and organizations represented herein for implementing specific nonpoint source control activities. These other state, federal and local agencies play a significant role in implementing individual portions of this management program. In addition to agencies identified in this document, there are numerous other agencies, environmental groups, citizen advisory groups, professional associations and many other public and private groups involved in implementation of nonpoint source programs.

DEQ administers all point source pollution control programs. As such, it is responsible for establishment of water quality standards for surface and ground water, monitoring of streams to measure compliance with water quality standards, and overall water quality management. DCR works closely with DEQ to ensure that the nonpoint source pollution control programs are consistent with programs required to achieve compliance with the state's water quality standards and goals and the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Coordination includes selection of monitoring stations to characterize nonpoint source water quality impacts, special nonpoint source related water quality studies, identification of priority water bodies affected by nonpoint source-generated pollutants, fall line monitoring to define nonpoint source loading trends to Virginia's tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay, annual evaluation of water quality monitoring data to detect changes in water quality or water quality standards violations more rapidly and enforcement of the Water Control Law against identified nonpoint source polluters as required.

DCR prepares an annual report to the Environmental Protection Agency concerning progress made in the implementation of this program as well as an evaluation of any necessary modifications as required. The management program will continue to be a working document subject to further refinement and modification as newer and/or better information relative to nonpoint source pollution problems and their control in Virginia become available. Additionally, a five year program evaluation is anticipated.

